

2004 OCTE Awards and Recognition State Winners Recognized

Martha Williams Named as KY Tech Teacher of the Year



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, Martin Co. Health Sciences Instructor and 2004 KY Tech Teacher of the Year Martha Williams; Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter.

The twenty-second official Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) Awards and Recognition Ceremony was held at the Jackson Co. ATC on Tuesday, December 7, 2004.

Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens, OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter were on hand to officially support the program and present winners with their awards.

The official award winners include the following: KY Tech Teacher of the Year, Martha Williams, health sciences, Martin Co. ATC; KY Tech Beginning Teacher of the Year, Michael Fischer, information technology, Clark Co. ATC; KY Tech Outstanding Program, health sciences, Vicki Long, RN and Patricia Preston, RN, Hughes Jones – Harrodsburg ATC; Outstanding Organization Award, Kentucky Ready Mix Concrete Association, James Deters, executive director; Individual Merit Award, Jenny Sweet, Rockcastle Co. Community Education; Outstanding Student Achievement Award, Patrick James Helm, office technology, Casey Co. ATC; Outstanding Administrative Staff Achievement Award, Wayne Spencer, principal, Breckinridge Co. ATC; and Outstanding Staff Achievement Award, Glenda K. Rowlett, administrative secretary, Murray/Calloway Co. ATC.

KY Tech Teacher of the Year

Martha Williams, Health Sciences, Martin Co. ATC

A health sciences instructor at the Martin Co. ATC for nine years, Martha Williams believes, “Education changes lives. Every person has special gifts and talents. I believe in vocational-technical education so strongly because I feel the curriculum gives students the opportunity to discover their gifts and talents.”

Prior to becoming a teacher, Mrs. Williams worked in health care in the Martin County community for 13 years. She made many contacts in the local health care industry and this has afforded her the opportunity to build an active clinical program with 10 clinical rotation sites for her students.

“I want my students to be able to look back over their years of education and say, ‘she made a difference or she helped me reach for a goal I thought I could never obtain.’”

Michael Fischer – KY Tech Beginning TOY



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, Michael Fischer, information technology instructor at the Clark Co. ATC; Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter

KY Tech Beginning Teacher of the Year

Michael Fischer, Information Technology, Clark Co. ATC

A first year information technology instructor at the Clark Co. ATC, Mr. Fischer came from a network engineering background to begin a teaching career. He has brought excitement to the program because of his attitude in attaining excellence by leading and training his students to become the “absolute best engineers of any IT program in the state of Kentucky, making each employable and highly skilled.”

Mr. Fischer became a teacher for three reasons. “First, I was motivated by a desire to contribute something in a way that was meaningful. Secondly, I have a deeply held conviction that when there is an opportunity to give, one should take it. Thirdly, I decided to teach because it simply felt right. The last item is the one that had the greatest impact on my decision, and it is because of the last item that I'm teaching today.”



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, Patricia Preston, RN and Vicki Long, RN, both health sciences instructors at the Hughes Jones – Harrodsburg ATC; Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter

Health Sciences Program

Instructors: Vicki Long, RN and Patricia Preston, RN

Hughes Jones – Harrodsburg ATC

What began as a one-teacher program has been expanded to a two-teacher program because of the incredible growth and demand in the health care field, as well as having instructors who have a strong commitment to quality teaching. Vicki Long and Patricia Preston, both registered nurses, train students through academic and vocational technical education integration and cooperative learning experiences as it relates to preparation for employment. They enjoy an active advisory committee that consists of representatives from various health care agencies in the Harrodsburg community. Both instructors agree that the program offers each student an opportunity to build interpersonal skills, work ethics, and leadership abilities through a variety of academic and technical activities.

“We are constantly evaluating our program and tweaking for success. We have a very close working relationship with our clinical site coordinators and many times we have used information from them to revamp portions of our program,” says Vicki and Patricia.

Individual Merit Award – Jenny Sweet



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, Jenny Sweet, Rockcastle Co. Community Education; Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter

KY Tech Individual Merit

Jenny Sweet, Rockcastle Co. Community Education

Community education coordinator for the Rockcastle County school district, Jenny Sweet has been an advocate of career and technical education for several years. Rockcastle Co. Area Technology Center (ATC) Principal Ralph Baker describes Jenny as “one of the school district's most valuable connections to career and technical education. She has a vast knowledge of Tech Prep, School-to-Careers, the Kentucky Career Clusters and the inner workings of the Rockcastle Co. ATC. She has helped the Rockcastle County central office staff work much closer with the ATC in meeting district goals, ATC goals and student needs.”

Mrs. Sweet has helped write and implement many different grants for the Rockcastle Co. ATC; coordinated and planned health fairs, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, job fairs and middle school recruitment activities; volunteered to substitute teach; and coordinated funds and services for many aspects of the criteria Rockcastle ATC is evaluated on in its program assessment.

Outstanding Student – Patrick James Helm



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, Patrick James Helm, office technology student, Casey Co. ATC; Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter.

KY Tech Outstanding Student

Patrick James Helm, Office Technology, Casey Co. ATC

Patrick is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Helm. He is a senior at the Casey Co. High School and has won an array of honors and awards throughout his high school career.

“Patrick is self-confident, independent, and thorough in his approach to his studies. If given a task, he devotes himself to its successful completion,” says his Casey Co. ATC Office Technology Instructor Janet Atwood. “Along with being involved in extracurricular activities he maintains a 4.0 GPA and holds the honor of Governor’s Scholar.”

“Kentucky Tech has served as my window to the future; a window full of opportunities which I wouldn’t have experienced otherwise. Through programs such as computer technology, the past four years have successfully extended my horizons in a field of study in which I plan to specialize in college,” says Patrick. “Casey County ATC has been one of the focuses of my high school career, and I can already see where it’s paying off.”

Outstanding Administrative Staff – Wayne Spencer



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, Wayne Spencer, principal, Breckinridge Co. ATC; Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter.

KY Tech Administrative Staff Achievement Wayne Spencer, Principal, Breckinridge Co. ATC

Mr. Spencer has completed 30 years of service in the Kentucky Tech system including three years as a carpentry instructor at the Clark County ATC, and 27 years as principal of the Breckinridge County ATC. During his tenure he has worked with many administrative and curriculum changes; served for over ten years on the KY Tech Statewide Marketing committee; served on the Principals' Advisory Board; and attended almost every state and regional FBLA, HOSA, and VICA student organization conference over the past 27 years.

Mr. Spencer believes the future of Technical Education is the students. He believes that every student should be given the opportunity to experience technical education.

"I am most proud that the reputation and name of this school is known statewide. More importantly is that the local community and school board supports the efforts of this school," says Spencer.

Outstanding Staff Achievement – Glenda Rowlett



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, Glenda Rowlett, administrative secretary, Murray/Calloway Co. ATC; Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter.

Outstanding Staff Achievement

Glenda K. Rowlett, Administrative Secretary

Murray/Calloway Co. ATC

Glenda Rowlett has been employed in technical education for approximately 32 years. She is considered a true asset to the faculty and staff of the Murray/Calloway Co. Area Technology Center. Mrs. Rowlett represents an unwavering dedication to professionalism in her daily work responsibilities and recently completed her bachelor's degree in Career and Technical Education. She motivates and supports the school's instructors in their educational pursuits.

"I am a great supporter of technical education and have been the secretary of the Murray/Calloway Co. ATC since it opened in 1972," says Rowlett. "I believe technical education is an integral part of a student's overall education. Since I am usually the first person that visitors and students see, I must make a good impression."

Outstanding Organization – KY Ready Mix Concrete Association



From left to right: OCTE Executive Director Emil S. Jezik, James Deters, executive director, Kentucky Ready Mix Concrete Association; Workforce Investment Commissioner Laura E. Owens and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter.

Kentucky Ready Mix Concrete Association

James Deters, Executive Director

Mr. David Lawson, a carpentry instructor at the C.E. McCormick Area Technology Center, nominated Kentucky Ready Mix Concrete Association (KRMCA) for the KY Tech Outstanding Organization of the Year award. The association is located in Frankfort, Kentucky under the direction of Executive Director James Deters.

KRMCA has been involved with career and technical schools for many years. The organization not only has provided guest speakers for students, but KRMCA employees continue to provide training for instructors. With the many advances in concrete construction such as stamped concrete, stenciled concrete, acid etched, colored concrete, and pervious pavement, KRMCA has continued to be the Industry leader in providing KY Tech instructors and students with the latest knowledge.

“Through the training and commitment of KRMCA, students in construction related programs are better prepared to enter the workforce. Participation in KRMCA presentations allows students to have a working knowledge of many aspects of the concrete industry prior to graduating high school, says Lawson. “When coupled with a cooperative education experience, the students are well equipped to enter and succeed in an Apprenticeship program.”